

**13302 Coral Ridge Court
Houston, TX 77069-3343**

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

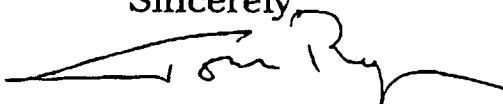
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am happy with the terms of the settlement reached last November between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. As a long-time Microsoft supporter, I believe the terms of the agreement are fair and beneficial. I strongly urge you to enact this settlement at the end of January.

It is very important to me that we not hinder free enterprise, and force companies to compromise the very creativeness that makes our country and our economic system great. Microsoft has made many concessions during this mediation process. Microsoft now agrees to disclose some of the information regarding the interfaces of its Windows system, which is more than reasonable. In addition, Microsoft has agreed to the formation of a review board whose sole purpose is to make sure that the terms of the settlement are enacted to the letter of the law. This condition should satisfy any skeptics who might believe Microsoft might not abide with the settlement's terms.

In all I believe that the settlement is fair to all parties and should be enacted soon. Thank you for your time regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ryan", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Tom Ryan